

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XI, No. 9, September, 1913

From Some Editorial Notes:

Politics.—It has reached the attention of the editor of your JOURNAL that certain members of the State Society, mostly in the southern part of the state, have acquired the curious belief that he is in some way "mixed up in politics" and is trying to use the JOURNAL for political purposes. The correct definition of "politics" is the science of government, and under that definition and to that extent alone is the editor in any way interested in "politics." The good of the medical profession in general and of the State Society in particular, and the improvement of public health conditions as they touch upon the domain of the physician, are now and have always been the sole aim and object of the work of the editor and the secretary of your society for twelve years. Party politics or political parties have no special interest for him. . . .

Rather Encouraging.—The influence of the JOURNAL outside of our own state is certainly perceptible. Even our advertising pages are read in places remote from our own territory, and not infrequently we receive gratifying evidence of that fact. Some time ago we noted that requests for the collection pasters devised by the secretary of the Los Angeles County Medical Association had come from a number of different states and also from abroad. . . . We certainly can commend the idea to them, for it is invaluable to those who have learned to use it in San Francisco. . . .

The Writing on the Wall.—A year or more ago an address was delivered before the San Francisco County Medical Society on some of the sociological problems of the medical profession. These were divided into two classes—problems or diseases entirely within the profession, and problems arising in the domain of the laity and affecting the medical profession; it was shown that nearly all the problems of any special import are those entirely within the medical profession. . . .

From an Original Article on "Primary Infections with Tubercle Bacilli, with Special Reference to Thoracic Glands" by Philip King Brown, M. D., San Francisco.—In this study of the probably commonest mode of entrance of tubercle bacilli into the human body, in which I am trying to show that the tracheobronchial glands are in most instances the seat of the initial lesions and the means of dissemination of the tuberculous process to the lungs in most cases, four lines of investigation have been carried on. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Ménière Symptom-Complex—A Clinical Review" by Hill Hastings, M. D., Los Angeles.—I wish to present to you some case records of labyrinthine affections in which the Ménière symptom-complex occurred, to discuss those of special interest and to invite your discussion of the subject. I regret that I cannot hope to bring before you any new facts, nor do I presume to attempt a classification of nonsuppurative labyrinthine affections. . . .

From an Original Article on "Modern Therapy of Syphilis" by Victor Vecki, M. D., San Francisco.—Physicians advanced in years, successful in their profession and having acquired the self-reliance which real or fancied experience gives, can be divided into two classes: the one

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

"John L. Brannely, Sacramento attorney, today filed a petition in the Sacramento County Superior Court for a writ of mandate to force the appointment of an osteopathic physician and surgeon to the post of supervisor of health and development in the Anderson Valley Union High School at Booneville, Mendocino County. In effect the petition charges the statute governing the appointment of school physicians is discriminatory, being restricted to medical doctors certified by the California State Board of Medical Examiners. . . . It is directed against the California State Board of Education. . . ." (Sacramento Bee, July 27, 1938.)

"Charging malicious prosecution, Paul F. Eid, former Burlingame physician who lost his right to practice on March 10 through action taken by the State Board of Medical Examiners, following Eid's arrest on a morals charge, filed suit last Monday for \$25,500 damages from Burlingame Police Chief John J. Harper and Police Captain John J. Hartnett. This was Eid's second such suit, the first being filed on June 6 when the physician sought \$25,000 from Harper, Hartnett, and Officers Carl H. Schwahn and Charles H. Thomas for false arrest. . . . In the complaint filed Monday, Eid claims that he was arrested at the Burlingame public library on the morals charge on November 3, 1937, and that the officers, taking advantage of his ignorance of the law, induced him to plead guilty. Eid was sentenced to ninety days in jail and fined \$100 by Judge R. L. Stone. Eid claims to have lost his license to practice as a result." (Redwood City Standard, July 22, 1938.)

"Attorney General U. S. Webb has filed in the District Court of Appeal a petition for a writ of mandate to have set aside the judgment of Judge A. R. Cotton, ordering a new trial for Paul Eid, former Burlingame physician, on morals charges. Deputy District Attorney Burrus Karmel contended that the assertion of Bernard Sharon, Eid's attorney, that the case had lapsed because no appeal had been taken within the allotted time, was in error. 'There was no possible appeal from Judge Cotton's order,' Karmel said. 'The petition for a writ is one means of getting the case before the higher court.' The district court has issued an alternative writ of mandate on Judge Cotton to show cause why the judgment should not be set aside. The Attorney General not only represents the people, but the State Board of Medical Examiners, which revoked Eid's license to practice medicine, Karmel explained. The former doctor charged that he was tricked into a plea of guilty to the morals charge. He was sentenced to ninety days in jail and fined \$100. He served the term, did not pay the fine, and is free under a stay of execution pending determination of the case." (Redwood City Tribune July 25, 1938.) (Previous entries, April and May, 1938.)

"Dr. David V. Bush's scheduled lecture today had been indefinitely postponed, and scores of persons who gathered to hear it, but didn't, were getting the explanation today. Doctor Bush was arrested just before the lecture at his apartment, 833 South Grand Avenue, by Investigator W. N. Anderson of the State Medical Board on a warrant issued in 1935, charging him with practicing medicine without a license. He was booked at Glendale." (Los Angeles Evening News, July 7, 1938.)

"William A. Van Buren, sixty-three, was arrested by Special Agents of the State Medical Board yesterday on charges of masquerading as a physician. Van Buren was

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.